

Photograph John Wilkes; half-length, standing



Photograph John Wilkes Booth, circa 1862



Capt. Edward P. Doherty, (John Wilkes) Booth's Captor
photographer, Mathew Brady Studio









2723



2723



Photograph

Lewis Payne, Alias Wood, Alias Hall. Arrested as an associate of Booth in the conspiracy. Lewis Payne, the conspirator who attacked Secretary of State Seward.



BA1653

Photograpgh

The private box in Ford's Theater, Washington, where President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes



Photograph

Ford's Theatre, chair in which President Lincoln was sitting when shot.

Photographer, Mathew Brady Studio



Photograph

Part of stage, Ford's Theater. President Lincoln's box was to right.

Photographer, Mathew Brady Studio



Entrance to Lincoln's Box Ford's Theatre



President Lincoln's funeral procession on
Pennsylvania Avenue





Washington Navy Yard, D.C.

David E. Herold, a conspirator



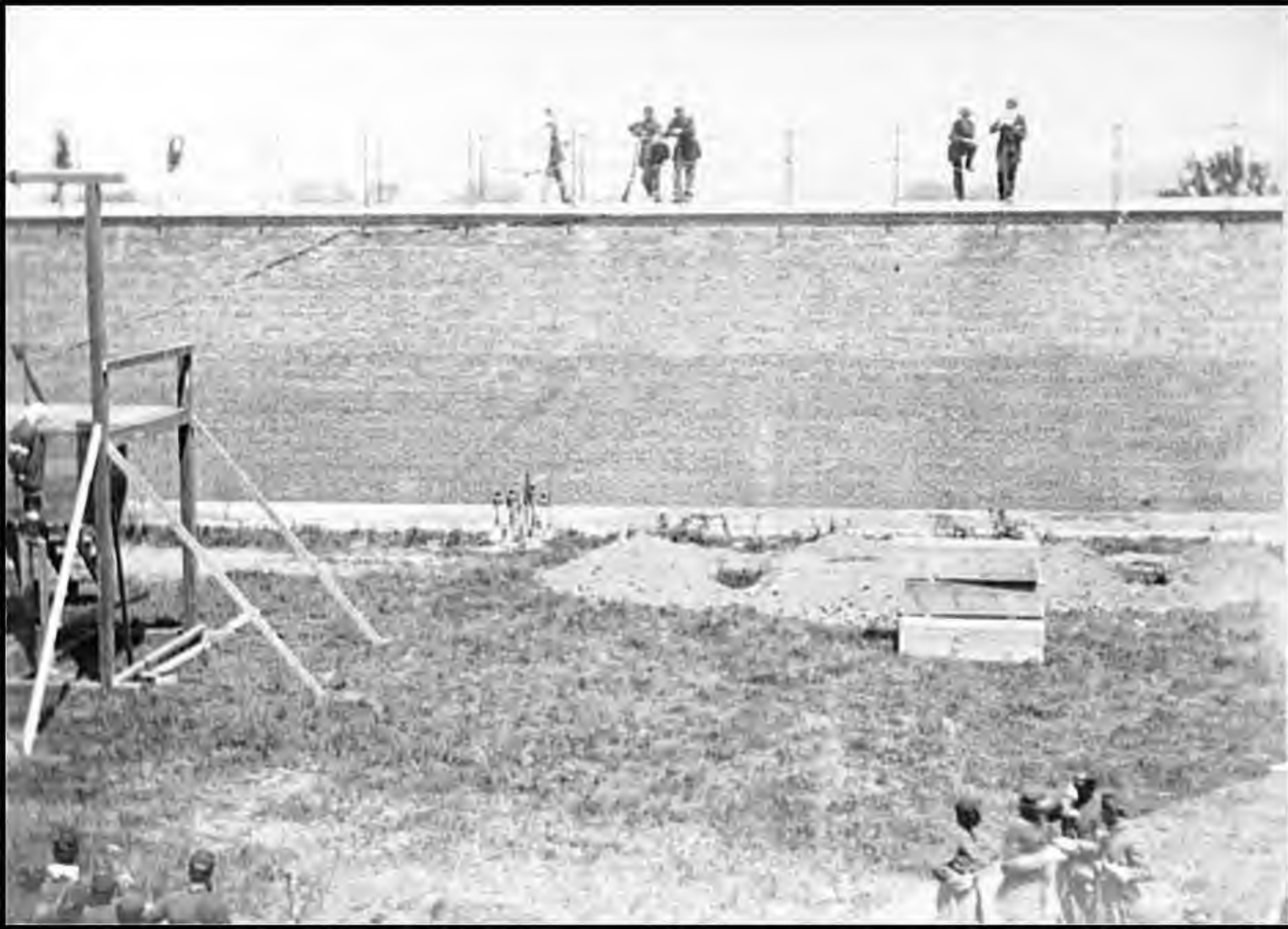
Washington, D.C. Ford's Theater with guards
posted at entrance and crepe draped from windows



Washington Navy Yard, D.C. Lewis Payne, the
conspirator who attacked Secretary Seward,
standing in overcoat and hat.



Washington, D.C. Coffins and open graves ready
for the conspirators' bodies at right of scaffold



Washington, D.C. John C. Howard's stable on G
Street between 6th and 7th (where John H. Surratt
kept horses



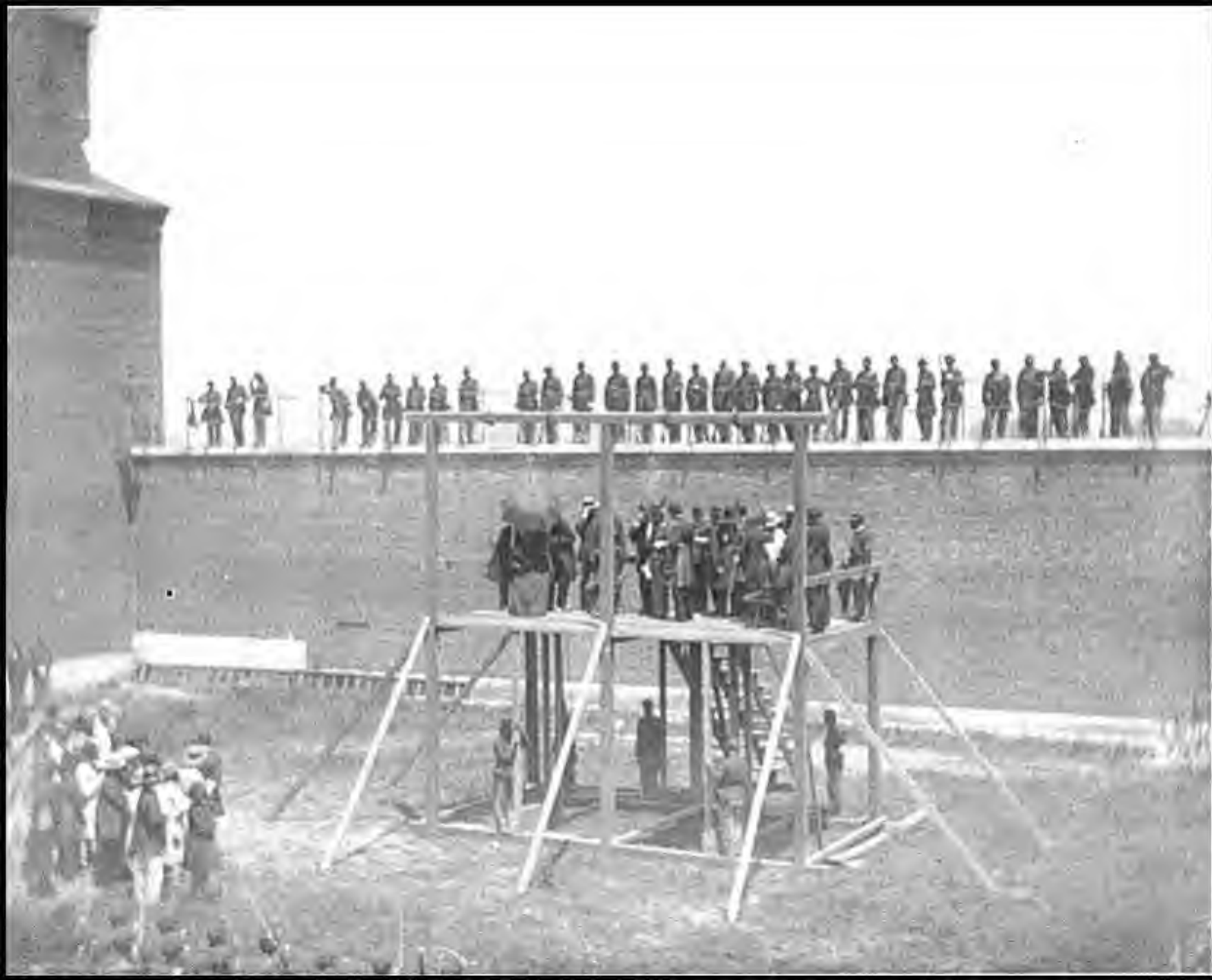
Washington, D.C. Execution of the conspirators:
scaffold ready for use and crowd in the yard,
seen from the roof of the Arsenal



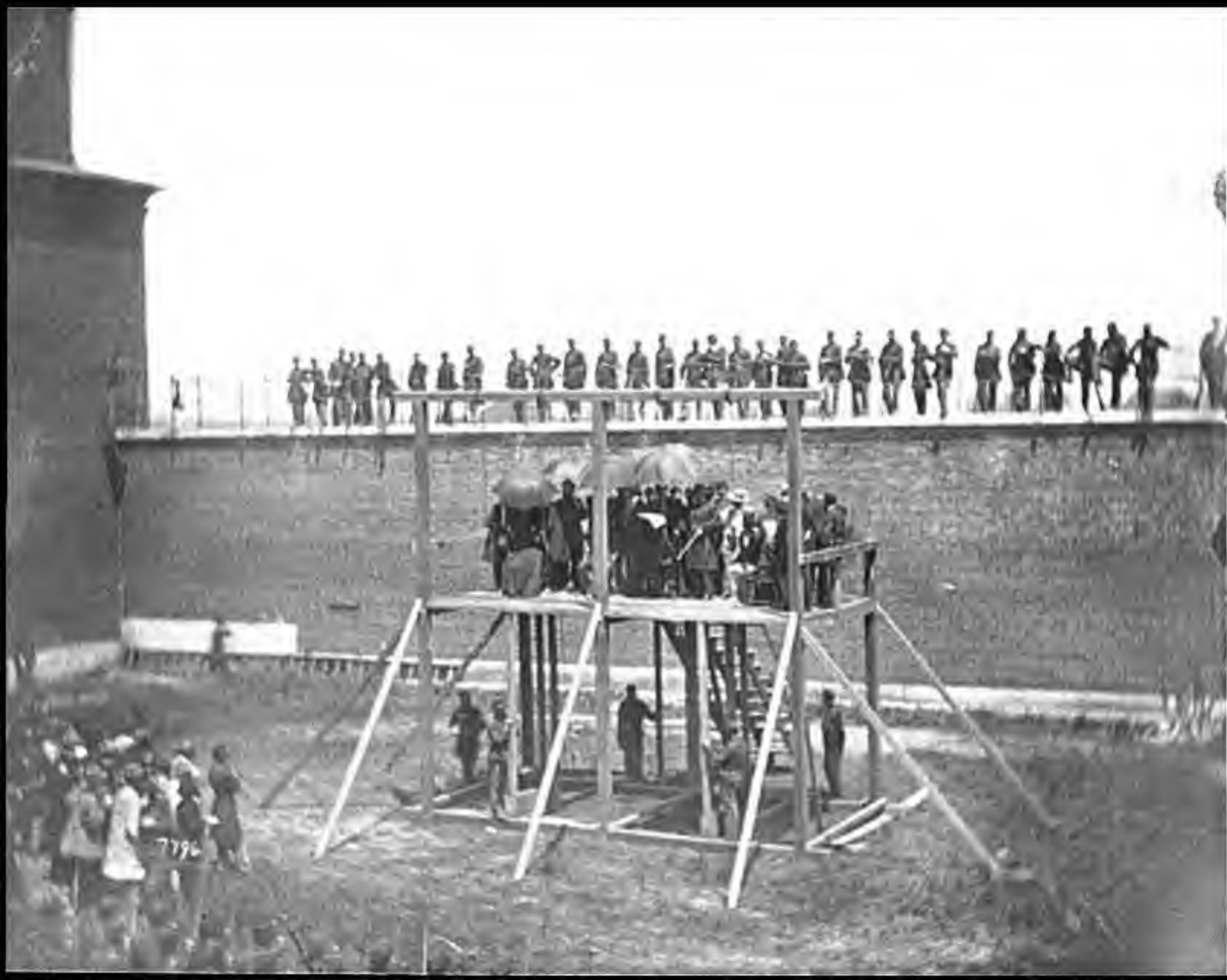
Washington, D.C. Gen. John F. Hartranft and staff,
responsible for securing the conspirators at the Arsenal



Washington, D.C. The four condemned conspirators
(Mrs. Surratt, Payne, Herold, Atzerodt), with officers and
others on the scaffold; guards on the wall



Washington, D.C. Gen. John F. Hartranft reading the death warrant to the conspirators on the scaffold



Washington, D.C. Adjusting the ropes for hanging
the conspirators



Washington, D.C. Hanging hooded bodies of the
four conspirators; crowd departing



Washington, D.C. Hanging bodies of the
conspirators; guards only in yard



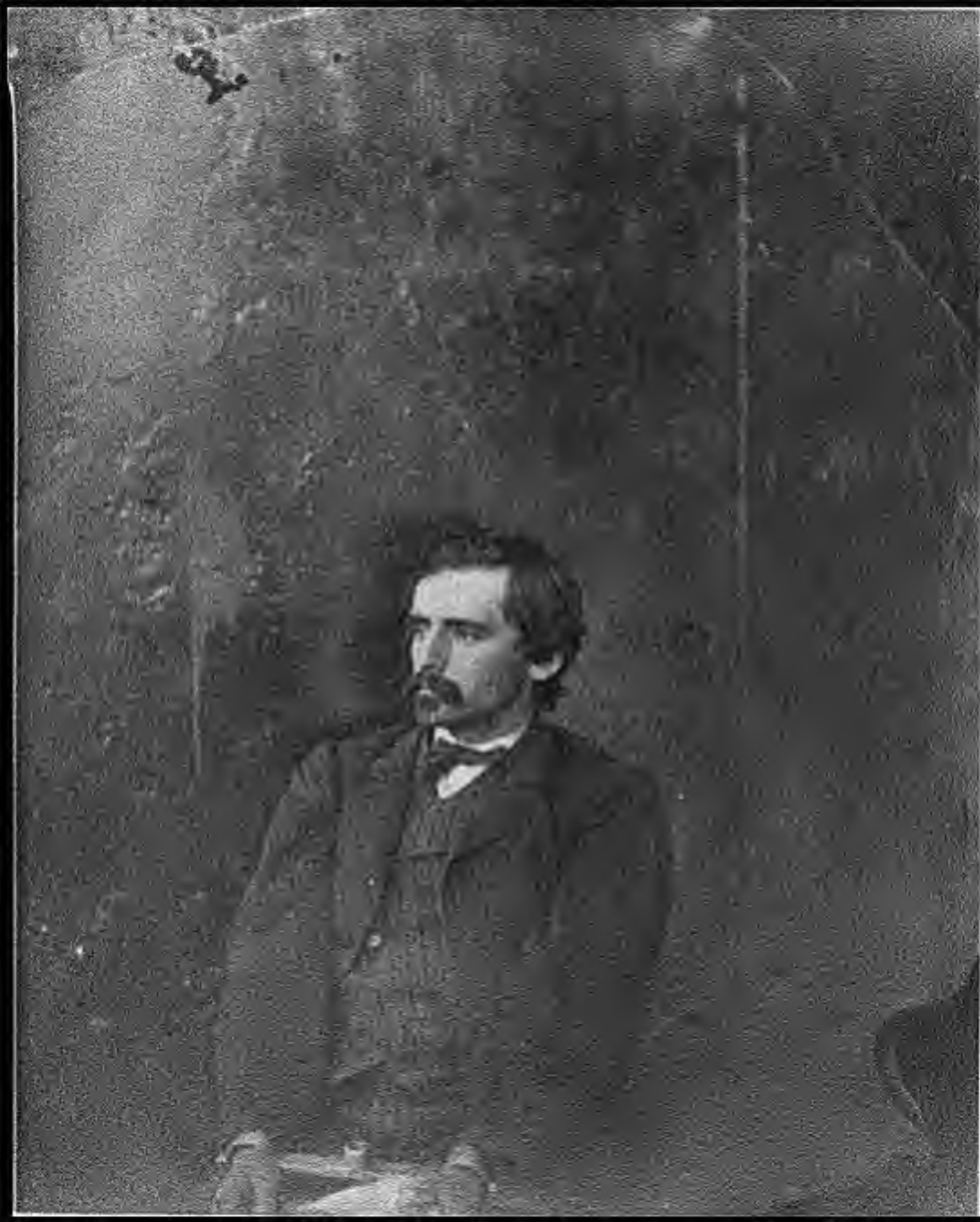
Washington Navy Yard, D.C. Samuel Arnold,
a conspirator



Washington Navy Yard, D.C. Edward Spangler,
a "conspirator," manacled



Washington Navy Yard, D.C. Michael O'Laughlin,
a conspirator, manacled



Washington Navy Yard, D.C.

George A. Atzerodt, a conspirator

This photograph has backgroundsof dark metal, and was presumably taken on the monitors, U.S.S. Montauk and Saugus.



Washington Navy Yard, D.C.

Lewis Payne, in sweater, seated and manacled



Washington Navy Yard, D.C. Edward Spangler, a
"conspirator," in hat and manacled



Washington Navy Yard, D.C. Unidentified man, arrested on suspicion of being a conspirator (has been erroneously taken for Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, who had a bald forehead; but is probably Hartman Richter, Atzerodt's cousin, arrested with him but later released)



Petition of Mary Todd Lincoln requesting a pension

1869

Petition of
Mrs A. Lincoln
for a
Pension.

Jan'y 26, 1869—
referred to the
Committee on Invalid
Pensions

The Speaker
Rev. Pensions

To the Honorable Speaker of the
House of Representatives

Sir:

I herewith most respectfully
submit to the Honorable
House of Representatives my
application for a Pension.
I am a widow of a President
of the United States, whose
life was sacrificed in his
Country's Service. That war
disaster has very greatly
impaired my health, and
by the advice of my physician

I have come over to Germany
to try the mineral water and
during the winter to go to Italy.
But my financial means do not
permit me to take advantage
of the excellent advice given me
or can I live in a style
becoming the widow of the
Chief Magistrate, of a great State
although I live as economically
as I possibly can. In consid-
eration of the great services
my dearly beloved husband
has rendered to the United States
and of the fearful loss I have
sustained by his untimely death

his martyrdom I may say,
I respectfully submit to your
Honorable body this petition.
hoping that a yearly pen-
sion may be granted me,
so that I may have left
becoming care,

I remain,

Most respectfully
Mrs A. Lincoln.

Frankfort
Germany.

Police Blotter Listing the Assassination of President Lincoln

04/14/1865

This police blotter captures the reaction of the officer on duty the night of the assassination. The Washington Metropolitan Police Department was one of several civil and military police groups involved in the investigation.

Detective Corps Met Police Today April 14th 1865

7 P.M. Barry Bigley, Charles Donaldson
Roll Call Kelly and Mr Devitt present
Noonan in charge of Office, Drill
in charge of Department from 7 P.M. to 8
A.M.

to 12 P.M. Kelly 7 to 12 P.M.

to 8 A.M. Bigley 12 to 8 A.M.

9 P.M. Margaret Grubler, assault and
threats of bodily harm, arrested on
a warrant issued by Justice Miller
35, White Germany, prostitute, yes
Compt Geo Myers Security to keep the peace.
Bigley & Kelly

10 P.M. John Meade assault on Joseph
Hill with a Pistol 40 white U.S. Gambler
Married yes. Bailed for a hearing
at 3 o'clock Apr 15, discharged by
Justice Roswell
Charles & Mr Devitt

11 P.M. Sargent Johnson of Pocumt delivered
Apr 15th this morning to Office, Drill a Saddle
cover, halter and three fishing lines

12 P.M. At this hour the melancholy intelligence of
the assassination of Mr. Lincoln President
of the U.S. at Ford's Theatre was brought
to this office, and the information
obtained from the following persons
President goes to show that the assassin is a
man named J. Wilks Booth;
Secretary Edward Smith his sons & servant
were attacked at the same hour by a man supposed
to be J. Wilks Booth, assigned to the theatre.

Broadside advertising reward for capture of Lincoln
assassination conspirators, illustrated with photographic
prints of John H. Surratt, John Wilkes Booth, and David
E. Herold



SURRAT.



BOOTH.



HAROLD.

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865,



\$100,000 REWARD!

THE MURDERER

Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln,
IS STILL AT LARGE.

\$50,000 REWARD

Will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives.

\$25,000 REWARD

Will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. SURRATT, one of Booth's Accomplices.

\$25,000 REWARD

Will be paid for the apprehension of David C. Harold, another of Booth's accomplices.

LIBERAL REWARDS will be paid for any information that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above-named criminals, or their accomplices.

All persons harboring or secreting the said persons, or either of them, or aiding or assisting their concealment or escape, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a Military Commission and the punishment of DEATH.

Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

All good citizens are exhorted to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and rest neither night nor day until it be accomplished.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

DESCRIPTIONS.—BOOTH is Five Feet 7 or 8 inches high, slender build, high forehead, black hair, black eyes, and wears a heavy black moustache.

JOHN H. SURRAT is about 5 feet, 9 inches. Hair rather thin and dark; eyes rather light; no beard. Would weigh 145 or 150 pounds. Complexion rather pale and clear, with color in his cheeks. Wore light clothes of fine quality. Shoulders square; cheek bones rather prominent; chin narrow; ears projecting at the top; forehead rather low and square, but broad. Parts his hair on the right side; neck rather long. His lips are firmly set. A slim man.

DAVID C. HAROLD is five feet six inches high, hair dark, eyes dark, eyebrows rather heavy, full face, nose short, hand short and fleshy, feet small, instep high, round bodied, naturally quick and active, slightly closes his eyes when looking at a person.

NOTICE.—In addition to the above, State and other authorities have offered rewards amounting to almost one hundred thousand dollars, making an aggregate of about **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.**

The Martyr of liberty. "This Lincoln Hath born his faculties
so meek ... the deep damnation of his taking off."

An example of the many popular images printed after the
assassination that depict the attack on President Lincoln.
This one includes an adaptation of a quote from Macbeth,
Lincoln's favorite Shakespeare play.



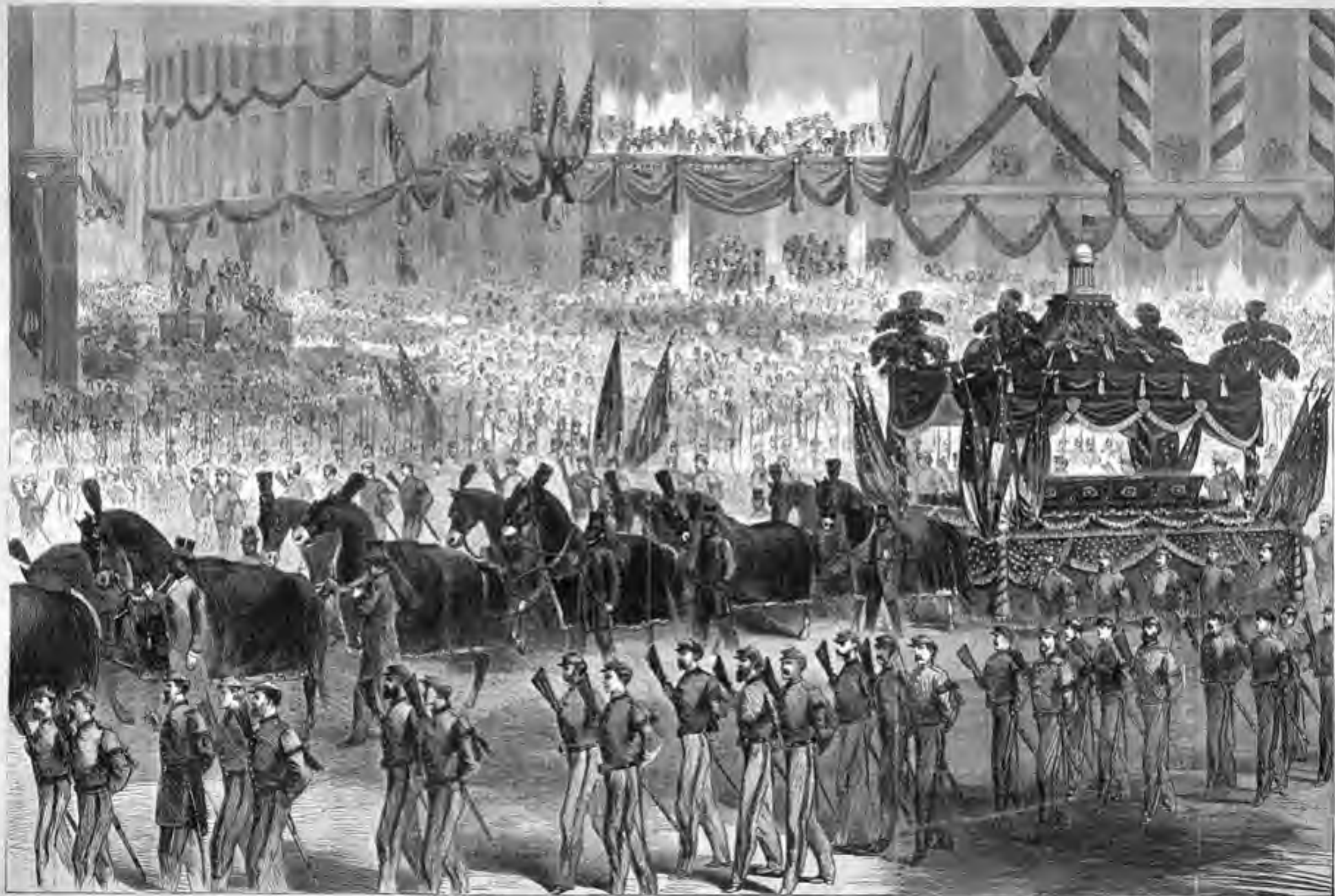
THE MARTYR OF LIBERTY.

"This *LINCOLN*
Hath borne his faculties so meek; has been
So clear in his great office; that his virtues
Shall plead, trumped-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking off."

President Lincoln's funeral procession in New York City.

From Harper's Weekly, May 13, 1865, p. 296-297.

An accurate depiction of the scene captured in Mathew Brady's photograph. Eleven thousand military men and 75,000 civilians



PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S FUNERAL—PROCESSION IN NEW YORK CITY.—[Illustration by Davis.]

Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Ermordung des
Präsidenten Abraham Lincoln. L'assassinat du president
Abraham Lincoln. [n. p., 1865?]

This lithograph illustrating the scene of Booth fleeing after
shooting President Lincoln shows Booth's foot caught in
the draperies surrounding the theater box. Booth broke his
leg in that fall.



Ermordung des Präsidenten
Abraham Lincoln.

Assassination of the president
Abraham Lincoln.

L'assassinat du président
Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln's last hour. Lincoln's letzte stunde. La dernière heure de Lincoln. [n. p., 1865?]

Abraham Lincoln's wife, Mary, did not sit with her husband while he lay on his deathbed. This print shows the dying president surrounded by men, including Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, sitting in the chair, second from right, at the foot of the bed.



Lincoln's letzte Stunde.

Lincoln's last hour.

La dernière heure de Lincoln.

Reitz

U.S. War Dept. \$100,000 Reward!! The murderer of our late beloved President Abraham Lincoln is still at large ... Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. [n. p., 1865].

The text of this reward notice was commonly printed on a large poster. This small format is unusual and the decorative border

\$100,000 REWARD!!



THE murderer of our late beloved President Abraham Lincoln is still at large.

Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars reward will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives. Twenty five thousand (\$25,000) Dollars reward will be paid for the apprehension of G. A. Atzerotd, or any of the accomplices. Twenty five thousand (\$25,000) Dollars reward will be paid for the apprehension of David C. Harold, another of Booth's accomplices. Liberal rewards will be paid for any information that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above named criminals—

All persons harboring or secreting the said persons, or aiding or assisting their concealment, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President, and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a military Commission and the punishment of death.

Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

All good citizens are expected to aid public justice, on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and rest neither night or day until it be accomplished.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Courier-Extra. National Calamity! Lincoln & Seward
Assassinated!! Washington, April 15, 1865 ...
[in a black border]

This broadside was printed after the assassination attack,
but before the news was telegraphed confirming that
Secretary of State Seward survived

COURIER---EXTRA.

National Calamity!

Lincoln & Seward Assassinated!!

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1865.

President Lincoln was shot through the head last night, and died this morning.— The Assassin is supposed to be Wilkes Booth the Actor. About the same time a desperado called at Secretary Seward's, pretending to be a messenger from his physician. Being refused admittance, he attacked Frederick Seward, son of the Secretary, knocking down the male attendant, he cut Mr. Seward's throat, the wound was not at first considered fatal. Letters found in Booth's trunk shows that this assassination was contemplated before the fourth of March but fell through from some cause, or other. The wildest excitement prevails at Washington. Vice President's and residences of the different Secretaries are closely guarded.

LATER—Seward died this A. M. 9:45.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

This sad intelligence falls like a dark pall on the hearts of the people so joyous and hopeful, yesterday, so terribly overwhelmed to-day. What rebels in Richmond dare not do, their accomplices and sympathizers have accomplished in our own capitol.

NOTICE.

All who abhor assassination, deplore murder, and detest the "deep damnation" of the taking off of our Chief Magistrate and Secretary of State, and who sincerely grieve for the great and good men gone are called on to meet

ON THE PUBLIC SQUARE,

AT

3 O'clock, this afternoon, April 15, 1865.

Milwaukee, Wis., Mayor Abner Kirby.

The great crime at Washington. Proclamation by the Mayor's office, Saturday morning, April 5th. Milwaukee, Wis., [1865].

A broadside printed by the mayor of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to inform the citizenry of the assassination news. This piece was printed before news updates confirmed that Secretary of State William Seward had survived.

The Great Crime at Washington.

Proclamation by the Mayor.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Saturday Morning, April 15th. 1865

The joy of the Nation is turned into mourning!

The Chief Magistrate of our Country is reported to have been villainously slain at the hands of an assassin, and the life of our Secretary of State taken by a still more infamous hand.

Therefore, I, **ABNER KIRBY**, Mayor of Milwaukee, do hereby recommend that all the dwellings and business places of our City forthwith be clad in mourning, as a token of the deep and common sorrow that prevails; and that the people, abstaining from all excitement improper for such solemn occasion, postpone their ordinary business duties to-day, and that in all the Churches to-morrow such services be performed as will duly express the great and general grief.

ABNER KIRBY,

Mayor.

Berghaus, A.

Appearance of Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C., after the murder. From a sketch by A. Berghaus.

This engraving of Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln was attacked, shows it draped in mourning immediately following the President's death.



APPEARANCE OF FORD'S THEATRE, WASHINGTON, D. C., AFTER THE MURDER.—FROM A SKETCH BY A. BERGHAUS.

Examples of mourning cards, probably printed immediately following the President's death, as was the custom of the time. Some contain generic popular nineteenth-century memorial iconography, and others have been customized with Lincoln's image and quotes.

COLUMBIA

IN MEMORY

OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.

Born February 12th, 1809.

Died April 15th, 1865.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all."

Second Inaugural Address.

IN MEMORY

OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

**PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.**

Born February 12th, 1809.

Died April 15th, 1865.

**"With malice toward none, with charity
for all."**

Second Inaugural Address.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

IN MEMORY *IL*
OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.

Born February 12th, 1809.

Died April 15th, 1865.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all."

Second Inaugural Address.

IN MEMORIUM!



ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States; Assassinated April 14,
died April 15, 1865,

He fell not in the battle strife,
He gave not to Disease his breath;
'Twas by the foul Assassin's ball
Our noble Chief receiv'd his death.



IN VICTORY WE MOURN

WE MOURN

A BELOVED

**PATRIOT and
STATESMAN**



Born Feb. 12, 1809.

Died April 15, 1865.



IN
MEMORY OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Born February 12th 1809.
INAUGURATED PRESIDENT, MARCH 4th 1861.
ISSUED THE PROCLAMATION OF
EMANCIPATION,
JANUARY 1st 1863.
REINAUGURATED PRESIDENT, MARCH 4th 1865.
ASSASSINATED, APRIL 14th 1865.
Died April 15th 1865.
in the 57th year of his age.

THE NATION'S FRIEND.

MEMENTO MORI.



Born, February 12th, 1809.
Assassinated, April 15th, 1865.

**"Just of his Word—Observant of his
Right."**



The Nation Mourns.



From all churches
Sad and slow,
Toll the bells
The knell of woe.

Hark! their sad and solemn notes attend
Abraham Lincoln to his last way's end.

Dead silence mutely hovers
Above grave's dreary strand,
With sable pall it covers
The Leader of Our Land.

Despairing men are wringing
In vain their hands here wound,
The Orphan's wail is winning
No solace from its ground.

The nightingales' caroling
Sounds never in its womb;
True Patriots tears are rolling
But on the mossy tomb.

The Great Lincoln memorial tableaux are now on exhibition at National Hall!. [Philadelphia] W. H. Beal & Co.

An advertisement for a theatrical event featuring a "Lincoln Memorial Tableaux" among other variety stage acts, such as dramatic readings and singing of popular songs. Theatrical tableaux of that time typically employed actors and props to portray a famous scene frozen in time in a kind of "living picture."

47

THE GREAT
LINCOLN!

MEMORIAL



TABULARY

Are now on Exhibition at
NATIONAL HALL!

Market Street, above Twelfth.

These Magnificent Paintings are from the Pencil of
GEORGE WUNDERLICH, ESQ.,
The Celebrated Philadelphia Artist.

SAMUEL K. MURDOCH, ESQ.

The Celebrated and well known Shakspearean Reader, will deliver an Entertaining **DESCRIPTIVE LECTURE.**

M'LE ELVIRA DE SILVA!

A young and Talented Vocalist, late of the King's Opera Company, Hanover, will make her First Appearance in America, in

CHOICE MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Assisted by an Accomplished Pianist.

Tickets of Admission, 25 Cts. Reserved Seats, 50 Cts.

For Sale at the Hall; Bookstand, Continental Hotel; Trumpler's Music Store, cor. Seventh and Chestnut Streets, and at Stewart's 632 Arch Street.

Matinees every Monday, Wednesday & Saturday Afternoon

Admission, 25 Cents. Children, 15 Cents.

W. H. BEAL & CO., Proprietors.

Brown, Pr., Inquirer Building, 304 Chestnut St.

Theory. Practice. Effect. Bickley, Head of the Knights of the Golden Circle. Booth, the Assassin.

Lafayette Bickley was the leader of a secret organization, the Knights of the Golden Circle, founded in the 1850s with the mission to expand the territory of slave-holding southern states beyond the borders of the United States. Immediately after the assassination, there was speculation that Booth was a member of this organization.

THEORY.



BICKLEY.

Head of the Knights of the Golden Circle.

PRACTICE.



BOOTH.

The Assassin.

EFFECT.



VIII

MARTYR PRESIDENT.

Seizure and death of the murderer Wilkie [sic] Booth.

Cerfängennehmung und Tod des Morders Wilkie Booth.

L'arrestation et la mort de l'assassin Wilkie Booth.

[n. p., 1865].

This is a somewhat interpretive rendition of the scene of Booth's capture. Booth was mortally wounded and, therefore, could not have been captured standing up holding a rifle.



Gefangennahme und Tod des
Mörders Wilkie Booth.

Seizure and death of the
murderer Wilkie Booth.

L'arrestation et la mort de
l'assassin Wilkie Booth.

Execution of the four conspirators: Mrs. Surrat, Payne, Harold & Atzeroth. At Washington, D.C., July 7, 1865. Philadelphia, J.L. Magee, 1865.

The artist has taken some liberties in depicting this scene of the execution of Booth's co-conspirators at the site of the current Fort McNair, in Washington, D.C. This print shows a Catholic priest next to the gallows; much attention was given in the popular press, at that time, to the fact that Mary E. Surrat was Catholic. Mrs. Surrat is thought to have been the first woman executed by the U.S. government.



EXECUTION OF THE FOUR CONSPIRATORS: MRS. SURRET, PAYNE, HAROLD & ATZEROTH.
AT WASHINGTON, D.C. JULY 7. 1865.

Execution of the conspirators. Praparing [sic] for execution,
Springing of the trap [done in two panels]. [n.p., 1865?] litho.,

An accurate depiction of the hanging of Booth's co-conspirators
at the site of the current Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.



EXECUTION OF THE CONSPIRATORS.
 PRAPARING FOR EXECUTION,



SPRINGING OF THE TRAP

Letter, October 20, 1860

David Hunter to Abraham Lincoln, October 20, 1860
(Warns of assassination plot)

David Hunter, a graduate of West Point, began corresponding with Lincoln in 1860 while he was stationed in Kansas. This correspondence led to Hunter accompanying Lincoln on the trip to Washington in 1861. During the Civil War Lincoln appointed Hunter commander of the Department of the South and countermanded Hunter's March 1862 order that freed all the slaves in his department. Hunter made the return trip to Springfield in 1865 with Lincoln's body and was one of the presiding officers at the trial of Lincoln assassination conspirators.

Transscription:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas,

Oct. 20th 1860.--

Private and

Confidential.

Dear Sir: Your success and safety being identified with the great Republican cause, the cause of peace, union and conservatism; must be my apology for addressing you.--

On a recent visit to the east, I met a lady of high character, who had been spending part of the summer among her friends and relatives in Virginia. She informed me that a number of young men in Virginia had bound themselves, by oaths the most solemn, to cause your assassination, should you be elected. Now Sir, you may laugh at this story, and really it does appear too absurd to repeat, but I beg you to recollect, that on "the institution" these good people are most certainly demented, and being crazy, they should be taken care of, to prevent their doing harm to themselves or others.-- Judicious, prompt and energetic action on the part of your Secretary of War, will no doubt secure your own safety, and the peace of the country,

I have the honor to be,

Very Sincerely,

Your mo. ob.

David Hunter,

U. S. Army--

P. S.

I had the pleasure of meeting you in early days at Chicago,
and again at the great Whig Convention at Springfield in
1840.

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas,
Oct. 20th 1860. —

Private and
Confidential.
~~~~~

Dear Sir: Your  
success and safety being iden=  
tified with the great Repub=  
lican cause, the cause of peace,  
union and conservatism; must  
be my apology for addressing  
you. —

On a recent visit to  
the east, I met a lady of  
high character, who had been  
spending part of the summer  
among her friends and rela=  
tives in Virginia. She inform=  
ed



ed me that a number of young  
men in Virginia had bound  
themselves, by oaths the most  
solemn, to cause your as-  
sassination, should you be  
elected. Now Sir, you may  
laugh at this story, and really  
it does appear too absurd  
to repeat, but I beg you  
to recollect, that on <sup>the</sup> the  
institution "these good people  
are most certainly demented.  
and being crazy, they should  
be taken care of, to prevent  
their doing harm to themselves  
or others. - Judicious, prompt  
and energetic action on



the part of your Secretary  
of War, will no doubt se-  
cure your own safety, and  
the peace of the country,

I have the honor to be,  
Very sincerely,  
Yours mo. ob.

David Hunter,  
U. S. Army.

Hon. A. Lincoln,  
Springfield,  
Ill.

P.S.

I had the pleasure of  
meeting you in early days



at Chicago, and again at  
the great Whig Convention  
at Springfield in 1840.

David Hunter  
U.S. Army.  
Fort Leavenworth, Kan.,  
October 20, 1840,



M. J. Thomas to Abraham Lincoln, October 16, 1860  
(Warns Lincoln to guard his life)

Transcription:

Philada Octr 16th 1860

Dear Sir,

In addressing you again I trust, when the object is known, I may not be deemed obtrusive, or unnecessarily officious, nor yet, so timid or suspicious as to cast unjust reproach upon a political opponent.

Some, (perhaps I might with truth say many) of your friends here are apprehensive for your personal safety, in view of the threats made by infuriated fanatics who claim to be the "preservers of the Constitution and the Union."

In conversation, yesterday, with a rabid supporter of Bell & Everett he (whilst disclaiming all desire for such a catastrophe) said that he had been assured, by a gentleman(!) from the South, that "if Lincoln should be elected, he will not be President more than five days." This may be nothing more than the expression of malevolence resulting from the certainty of defeat to this prophet of evil in an issue upon which he has staked too largely -- an ebullition of impotent wrath. Past events, however have made us suspect that these threats may mean something more than empty sound. In 1840, after an arduous struggle, Genl Harrison was elected by the party adverse to the Calhoun creed. In one short month, after he was inaugurated, he was buried!

In 1848, after another severe struggle, Genl Taylor was elected by the same party and, though himself a slaveholder, he was not long in giving indications that the power of the executive was not to be wielded solely for the protection and extension of the "peculiar institution"; nor was it many months before he died from what may have been natural disease but which induced suspicion. More recently, while the present incumbent was known to stand pledged to respect the rights of the people of Kansas, a mysterious and fatal disease attacked the inmates of the house where he boarded and, though he escaped, numbers of others died.

These circumstances, coupled with the threats and dark insinuations already alluded to, lead us to apprehend that our American oligarchy, like that of Russia intend to maintain their ascendancy and secure their privileges of serfdom by resorting to assassination -- or to intimidate the executive into becoming their pliant tool as is the case at this time.

For us to publish these threats may be charged as inducing the crime by suggesting its possibility; I have therefore taken the liberty of privately communicating our apprehensions; for though fully satisfied that you are as devoid of fear as of reproach, a ertain degree of caution and circumspection may be advisable.



You probably have received similar intelligence from other persons and though we hope that these denunciations are but exhibitions of an excess of cholor and bile, or the promptings of too free an indulgence in bad whiskey and worse brandy, yet we feel it to be our duty to apprise you of their existance, nothing doubting, that your own foresight will then furnish the proper preventative. No reptile is so mean as to be beneath contempt, if possessed of the power to injure, and much as we may despise such men and their threats, precautions need not be rejected.

Our anxiety for the safety of the man whom we have selected to "re-establish justice an secure the blessings of liberty to the people of these United States" must constitute the excuse for bringing these anxieties to your notice.

With sentiments of the highest regard I remain

Very respectfully Yours &c

M J Thomas

241 N 17th St



Philad<sup>a</sup> Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> 1860

Hon A Lincoln

Dear Sir,

In addressing you again

I trust, when the object is known, I may not be deemed intrusive, or unnecessarily officious, nor yet so timid or suspicious as to cast unjust reproach upon a political opponent.

Some, (perhaps I might with truth say many) of your friends here are apprehensive for your personal safety, in view of the threat, made by infuriated fanatics who claim to be the preservers of the Constitution and the Union."

In conversation, yesterday, with a rabid supporter of Bell & Everett<sup>hy</sup> (whilst disclaiming all desire for such a catastrophe) said that he had been assured, by a gentleman from the South, that "if Lincoln should be elected, he will not be President more than five days."

This may be nothing more than the expression of malice, resulting from the certainty of defeat to this prophet of evil in an issue upon which he has staked too largely — an ebullition of impotent wrath. Past events, however have made us suspect that these threats may mean something more than empty sound. In 1840, after an arduous struggle, Genl Harrison was elected by the party adverse to the Baltimore Creed.



In one short month, after he was inaugurated, he was buried!

In 1848, after another severe struggle, Genl Taylor was elected by the same party, and, though himself a slaveholder, he was not long in giving indications that the power of the executive was not to be wielded solely for the protection and extension of the peculiar institution; nor was it many months before he died from what may have been natural disease but which induced suspicion.

Now recently, while the present incumbent was known to stand pledged to respect the rights of the people of Kansas, a mysterious and fatal disease attacked the inmates of the house where he boarded and, though he escaped, numbers of others died.

These circumstances, coupled with the threats and dark insinuations already alluded to, lead us to apprehend that our American Oligarchy, like that of Russia intend to maintain their ascendancy and secure their privileges of serfdom by resorting to assassination — or to intimidate the executive into becoming their pliant tool, as is the case at this time.

For us to publish these threats may be charged as inducing the crime by suggesting its possibility; I have therefore taken the liberty of <sup>privately</sup> communicating our apprehensions; for though fully satisfied that you are as devoid of fear as of reproach, a certain degree of caution and circumspection may be advisable.



You probably have received similar intelligence from other persons and though we hope that these denunciations are but exhibitions of an excess of Choler and bile, or the promptings of too free an indulgence in bad Whiskey and worse Brandy, yet we feel it to be our duty to apprise you of their existence, nothing doubting that your own foresight will then furnish the proper preventative.

No reptile is so mean as to be beneath Contempt, if possessed of the power to injure, and much as we may despise such men and their threats, precautions need not be rejected.

Our anxiety for the safety of the man whom we have selected to re-establish justice and secure the blessings of liberty to the people of these United States must constitute the excuse for bringing these anxieties to your notice.

With sentiments of the highest regard I remain  
Very respectfully Yours &c

A J Thomas  
241 N 17<sup>th</sup> St

Lincoln death bed illustrations by Hermann Faber, Army  
Medical Museum medical illustrator during the Civil War.





